

Client Ref.:VIT02-0185US
Our ref:0608-8617-US/final/Vincent/Steve

What is claimed is:

1. A method for implementing functions of hotkeys in a computer having a BIOS and operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

5 asserting a system management interrupt signal when a
 system management interrupt event is detected;
 determining whether the system management interrupt
 event results from one of the hotkeys being
 pressed;
10 determining whether the operating system is of a first
 or second type if the system management interrupt
 event results from one of the hotkey being
 pressed;
 reading a status value corresponding to the pressed
15 hotkey and implementing one of the functions
 corresponding to the status value by the BIOS if
 the operating system is of the first type; and
 reading the status value corresponding to the pressed
 hotkey and transferring the status value to the
20 operating system by the BIOS, and implementing
 one of the functions corresponding to the status
 value by the operating system if the operating
 system is of the second type.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
25 computer has a first and second key, and in the event that
 one of the hotkeys is pressed, is detected when the first
 and second keys are pressed simultaneously.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first key is a key Fn and the second key is one of keys F1~F12.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
5 operating system of the first type is Microsoft Windows 98.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating system of the first type is Microsoft Windows ME.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating system of the second type is Microsoft Windows
10 2000.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating system of the second type is Microsoft Windows XP.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the functions of the hotkeys is display switching.

15 9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the status value is transferred to a video BIOS of the computer for display switching.

10. A computer capable of implementing functions of hotkeys comprising:
20 a memory device storing an operating system;
a BIOS storing program codes and status values;
a keyboard having a first and a second key, and
asserting a first and second key press signal
when the first and second keys are pressed
25 respectively;

a bridge device asserting an interrupt signal
representing a hotkey event when the first and
second key press signal are asserted
simultaneously; and
5 a CPU loaded with the operating system, and when the
interrupt signal is asserted, reading the program
codes in the BIOS to implement the steps of:
asserting an SMI signal;
determining whether the interrupt signal results
10 from the hotkey event;
determining whether the operating system is of a
first or second type if the interrupt signal
results from the hotkey event;
reading one of the status values corresponding to
15 the hotkey event and implementing one of the
functions corresponding to the read status
value by the BIOS if the operating system is
of the first type; and
reading one of the status values corresponding to
20 the hotkey event and transferring the read
status value to the operating system by the
BIOS, and implementing one of the functions
corresponding to the read status value by
the operating system if the operating system
25 is of the second type.

11. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the
first key is a key Fn and the second key is one of the keys
F1~F12.

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12. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the operating system of the first type is Microsoft Windows 98.

13. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the operating system of the first type is Microsoft Windows ME.

5 14. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the operating system of the second type is Microsoft Windows 2000.

15. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the operating system of the second type is Microsoft Windows XP.

10 16. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein one of the functions of the hotkeys is display switching.

17. The computer as claimed in claim 16, wherein the status value is transferred to a video BIOS of the computer for display switching.

15 18. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the memory device is a hard disk.

19. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the BIOS has a ROM storing the program codes and status values.

20 20. The computer as claimed in claim 10, wherein the program codes are ASL codes.